



FROM THE SHRUNKEN CITY OF KANDOR,
SUPERMAN BRINGS "DEATH OUT OF A BOTTLE!"

40¢

NO. 496
JUNE



SUPERMAN[®] STARRING IN **ACTION[®] COMICS**



IT'S ALL
YOUR FAULT,
SUPERMAN!

YOU
CARRIED
SUPER-DISEASE
GERMS
FROM HERE TO THE
OUTSIDE WORLD!

BECAUSE OF YOU,
EVERY LIVING
THING ON EARTH
IS ABOUT TO
DROP DEAD!





TALKING TEETH
They walk, talk, clickety-clack and yackety-yak
#255 \$1.75



EVER-LITE Candles
#705 \$1.00

COINS OF THE WORLD

15 different coins from 10 different countries
#912 \$1.00



FUN FACTORY
DEPT. D-1096
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SUPER

GIFTS & GIMMICKS

SNAKE NUT CAN

They'll never suspect this can is labeled "Mixed Nuts" because it even rattles! But when it's opened—UP pops a 30" snake
#751 \$1.95

SNAPPERS

Just drop or squeeze one of these "snappers" for an extra L-O-U-D explosion!
#223 \$1.35

ATOMIC MINI-PISTOL
—LOUDEST BANG!

Fires real blanks! Extra loud explosion! 2" long. Barrel opens to load, hammer cocks & fires when trigger is pulled. Ramrod included!
#306 \$1.50
#305 Ammo-Pak 50c

SECRET AGENT PEN

Great for writing "SECRET" messages.
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Press the button and receive a recorded rollicking series of laughs.
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Use this real looking white plaster cast to win sympathy, or look like a sports hero, or be excused from unpleasant tasks. This phony cast comes complete with arm sling.
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Wind it up! Wear it on your finger like a ring & give your friends the S-H-O-C-K of their life!
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DISAPPEARING INK #508
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\$1.00

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ANY 3 FOR \$4.00

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Insert a blank piece of paper into the machine turn the knob.
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VENUS FLY TRAP
The most unusual plant in the world! Eats flies, bugs, insects, even meat! Instructions & special soil included.
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Hypnotise at a glance! Make people obey your commands, strengthen memory.
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DOGIE DOO #807
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BLACK SOAP #653
\$1.00

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\$1.00

FAKE BEER #675
\$1.00

WHOOPS #153
\$1.00

BLOODY MESS SOAP #695
\$1.00

INSTANT WORMS #685
\$1.00

SMOKE CLOUDS #222
\$1.00

THROW YOUR VOICE!
Trick family and friends alike. Appear to throw your voice into desks, under beds, under doors. Out of pets, from behind doors. FREE with "Professional Secrets" Guidebook.
#812 \$1.25

WHOOPS #153
\$1.00

BLOODY MESS SOAP #695
\$1.00

INSTANT WORMS #685
\$1.00

SMOKE CLOUDS #222
\$1.00

THROW YOUR VOICE!
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#812 \$1.25

FUN FACTORY DEPT. D-1096
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IF NOT 100% SATISFIED, I MAY RETURN ANY PART OF MY PURCHASE FOR FULL REFUND OF PURCHASING PRICE.

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Use other paper if necessary

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TOTAL ENCLOSED

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ZIP



MINI SPY CAMERA

Take secret or regular pictures. Precision ground lens. Takes clear close-up or distant pictures. Ten pictures per roll.
#007 \$1.75
#008 20 shots \$1.00



POCKET SPY SCOPE
Pen-sized 8 power telescope spots objects blocks away. Great for watching sports, girls, spying. Power lens optically ground to view every detail.
#425 \$1.75



X-RAY SPECS
An amazing illusion! Apparently see thru bones, thru skin, thru clothes, etc. Thrill and embarrass your friends.
#655 \$1.75

SECRET BOOK SAFE

Looks like real book but opens to reveal combination lock safe.
#660 \$2.95



MYSTERY LIGHT BULB
This bulb, when held in hand, lights whenever desired. A spectator can NOT make it light unless he knows the secret.
#143 \$2.25

THROW YOUR VOICE!

Trick family and friends alike. Appear to throw your voice into desks, under beds, under doors. Out of pets, from behind doors. FREE with "Professional Secrets" Guidebook.
#812 \$1.25



SPUD GUN

New, Fast action gun that shoots potato pellets as far as 50 feet! More than 300 shots from a single potato. Absolutely harmless.
#300 \$1.50



WEREWOLF MASK
#624 \$3.00

ARMY MEDALS
#906 \$1.00



ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE
EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON,
KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH—
WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY
GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS!
IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE
POSES AS MILD-MANNERED TV
NEWSMAN CLARK KENT—
AND BATTLES EVIL
ALL OVER EARTH
AND BEYOND
AS...

SUPERMAN

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

"SUPERMAN...
DON'T JUST FLY
THERE... DO
SOMETHING!
PEOPLE ALL OVER
THE WORLD...
DROPPING DEAD!"

STOP THIS KILLER-PLAGUE...
WHILE THERE ARE STILL SOME
OF US LEFT TO SAVE...

"CHOKE—
HOW CAN I
TELL THEM? I
CAN'T SAVE
ANYONE--"

--BECAUSE
I AM THE
REASON
THEY'RE ALL
DYING!!

A TRULY NIGHTMARISH SCENE,
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE--A
FIGMENT OF A WRITER'S WILD
IMAGINATION... FOR SUCH A
BLACK SCENARIO IS BEYOND
THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY!
YESTERDAY THE MAN OF
STEEL MIGHT HAVE AGREED
WITH YOU... BUT TODAY HE
KNOWS THE TERRIBLE TRUTH--
THAT HE HAS DOOMED THREE
BILLION PEOPLE TO--

"DEATH OUT OF A BOTTLE!"

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SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., 155 Allen Blvd., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11737. Annual subscription rate \$6.75. Outside U.S.A. \$7.75.

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SCENE: THE CITY OF KANDOR, STOLEN FROM THE PLANET KRYPTON AND SHRUNK BY THE VILLAINOUS BRAINIAC...

I HAVE CALLED THIS EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE SCIENCE COUNCIL BECAUSE OF A CRISIS THAT HAS SUDDENLY ARISEN!

IT MUST BE OF THE GRAVEST MAGNITUDE, DRYGUR, * TO HAVE SUMMONED ME FROM THE CHAMPIONSHIP VOLRA GAME!



*KRYPTONESE FOR LEADER.

BUT AS WE PULL BACK, WE SEE IT IS A MINUTURE MODEL OF KANDOR...

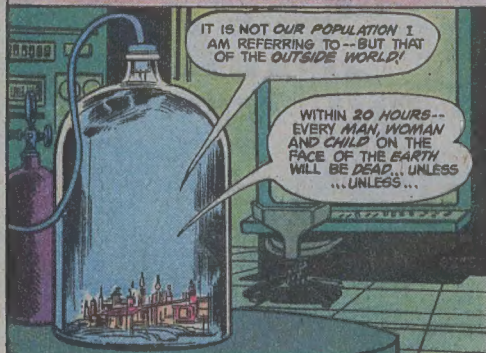
NEVER HAVE I SEEN YOU SO GRIM, DRYGUR! WHAT COULD HAVE PUT SUCH A BRITTLE CHILL IN YOUR VOICE?

NOTHING LESS THAN THE IMMINENT DEATHS OF OVER THREE BILLION PEOPLE!

THREE BILLION? BUT OUR CITY'S POPULATION NUMBERS ONLY SEVEN MILLION!



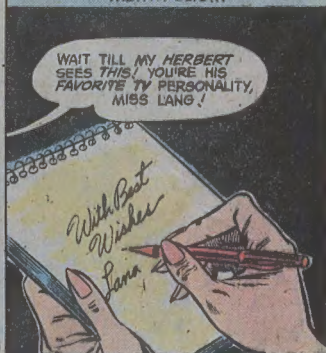
...A CITY STORED INSIDE A BOTTLE IN SUPERMAN'S FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE...



IT IS NOT OUR POPULATION I AM REFERRING TO--BUT THAT OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

WITHIN 20 HOURS-- EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH WILL BE DEAD... UNLESS ...UNLESS...

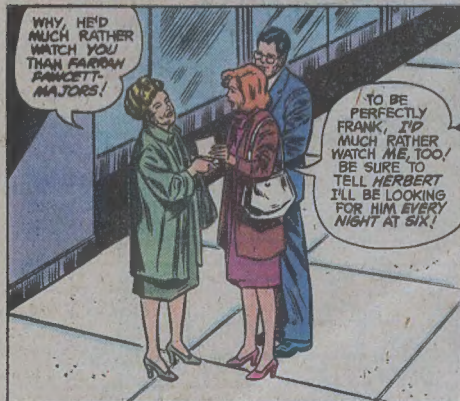
AND FAR FROM THAT TINY CITY, IN METROPOLIS...



WAIT TILL MY HERBERT SEES THIS! YOU'RE HIS FAVORITE TV PERSONALITY, MISS LANG!

WHY, HE'D MUCH RATHER WATCH YOU THAN FARROW PANKETT-MAJORS!

TO BE PERFECTLY FRANK, I'D MUCH RATHER WATCH ME, TOO! BE SURE TO TELL HERBERT I'LL BE LOOKING FOR HIM EVERY NIGHT AT SIX!

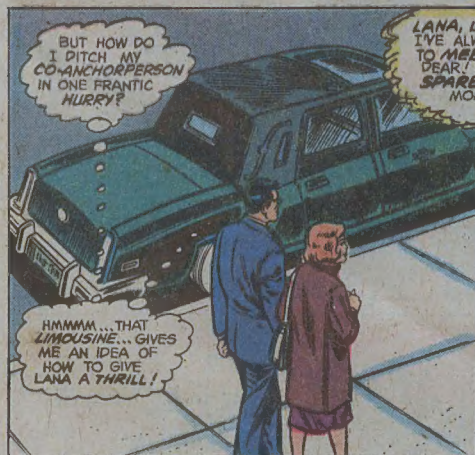


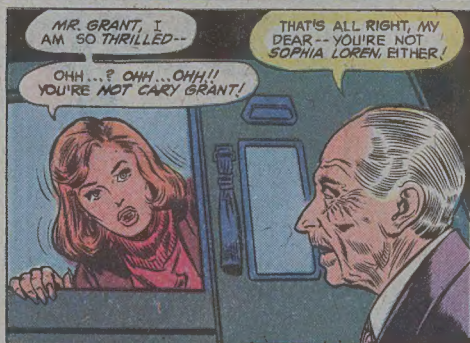
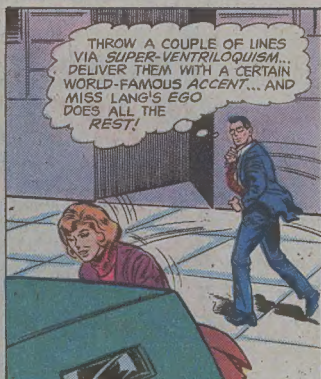
OH I WILL! HE WOULDN'T DREAM OF WATCHING ANY OTHER NIGHTLY NEWSCAST!

BY THE WAY--IT WAS... UH... INTERESTING MEETING YOU, TOO, MR. KENT!

"INTERESTING"?? IS THAT THE BEST SHE COULD DO?

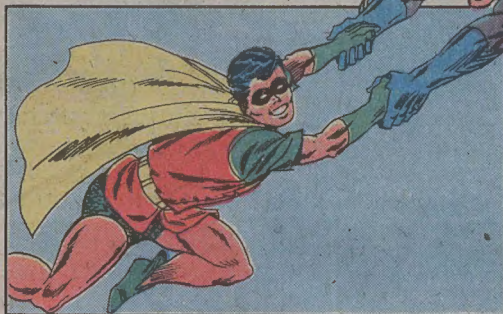




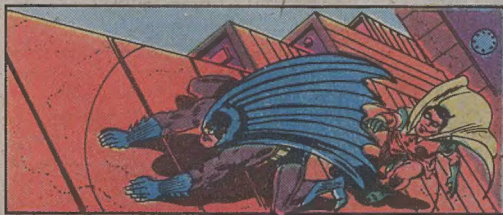


HERE THEY ARE! BATMAN® & ROBIN™ WITH **MAGNETIC** HANDS AND FEET

Holy magnets!
This is what I call
a sticky situation.



Imagine the adventures you can create with these BIG • 12½ inch Super Heroes™. Batman® and Robin—now more dynamic than ever with magnetic hands and feet that stick to almost any metal—even each other! Both are fully poseable and ready for any crime-fighting action.



M
MEGO CORP.

PICK UP STICKS.

If your mom's been bugging you about sweet snacks, pick up Slim Jim® meat snacks at your neighborhood convenience store. Or ask her to pick them up, next time she's at the supermarket.

They're chewy, satisfying snacks that come in six hearty flavors plus beef jerky. They can go anywhere you can go. And they're all meat.

So your mom will probably love them just as much as you will.



slim jim



Remember How Many Times You Felt Left Out

Because You Were BROKE!



Places the gang was going and you weren't included. They all had money for movies, games, hamburgers and soft drinks all of them except you.

WELL YOU'LL NEVER BE LEFT OUT AGAIN

Now YOU Can Make \$2, \$5, \$10 or More Week After Week

Introduce **GRIT** To Friends, Relatives, Neighbors and Others

"America's Greatest Family Newspaper Since 1982"

GRIT will Help you Start your Own Business

You will be sent papers to sell, supplies and selling helps. You pay for nothing in advance so you don't risk a penny. You pay only for the papers you sell until you know how many to order. You have everything to gain—nothing to lose—by starting your own GRIT business. Over 30,000 young persons all over America now sell GRIT. You'll have steady profits and earn free prizes regularly.

HURRY!
SIGN UP NOW

FILL OUT AND MAIL
THIS COUPON IN AN
ENVELOPE TODAY

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Send me copies each week.

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Street or RD

Town State

ZIP Code Male or Female

Age Date Born Year

Telephone (.....)
(area code)

Please Print Your Last Name Plainly Below

.....

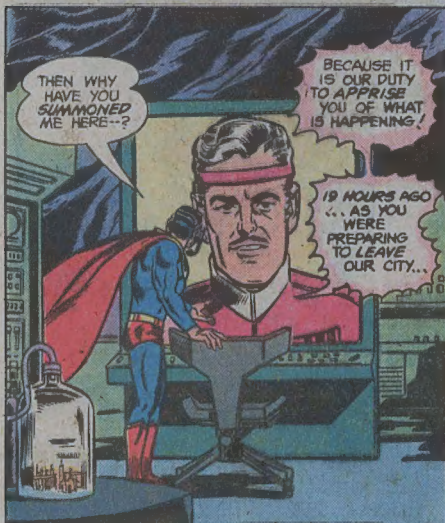
...ON A GREAT-CIRCLE PATH TO THE FABULOUS SECRET
CITADEL KNOWN AS THE **FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE**...



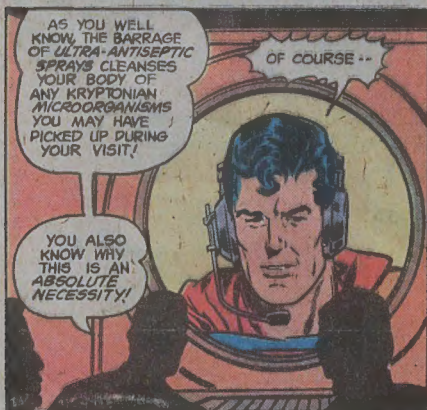
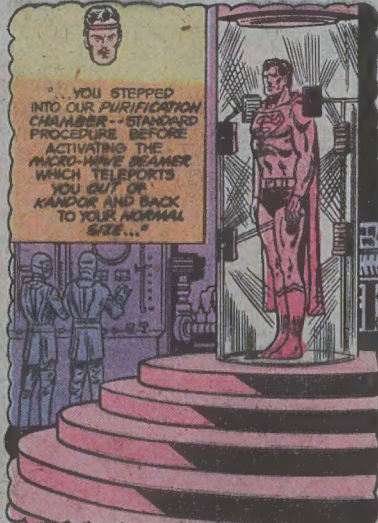
I FLEW HERE
AS SOON AS
I RECEIVED
YOUR ALARM,
DRYBUR! WHAT'S
THE EMERGENCY
SITUATION IN
THERE AND
HOW CAN I
HELP?

ALAS,
KAL-EL! THERE IS
NOTHING--
ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING--
YOU CAN
DO TO
HELP!

* KAL-EL--SUPERMAN'S NATIVE
KRYPTONIAN NAME.

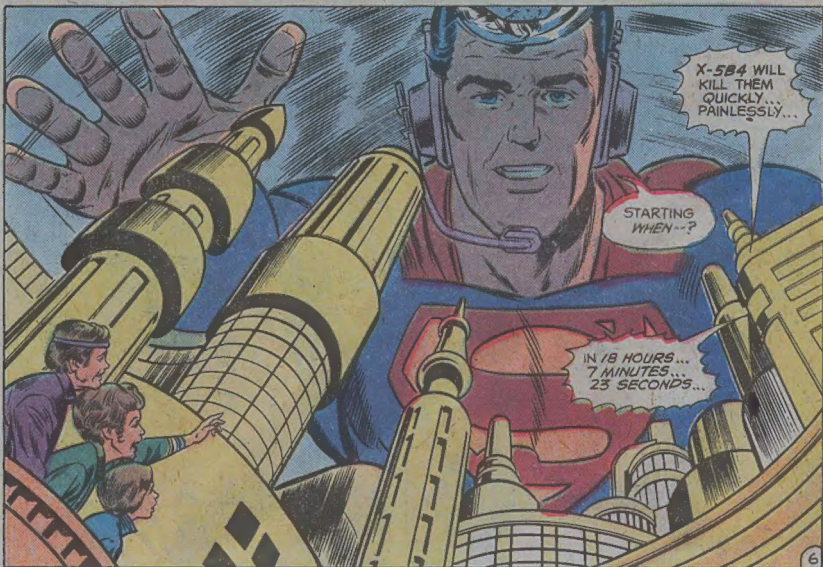
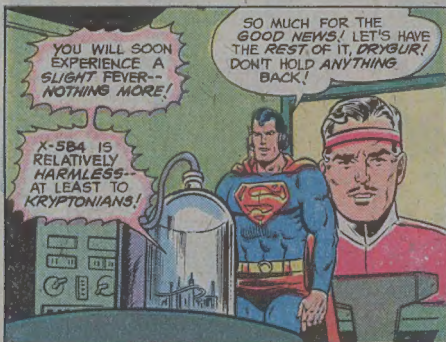
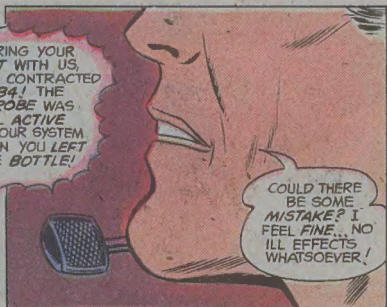


19 HOURS AGO
...AS YOU
WERE
PREPARING
TO LEAVE
OUR CITY...



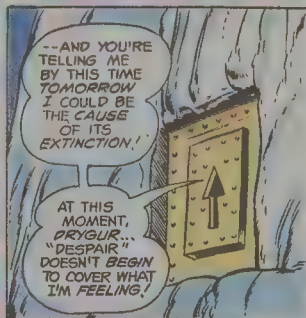
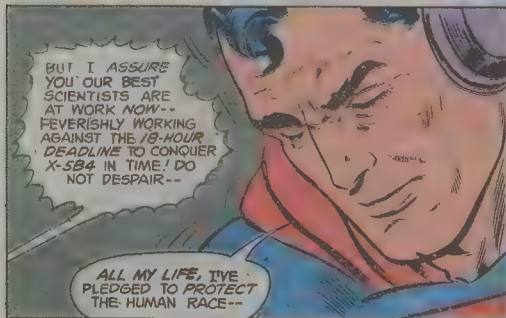
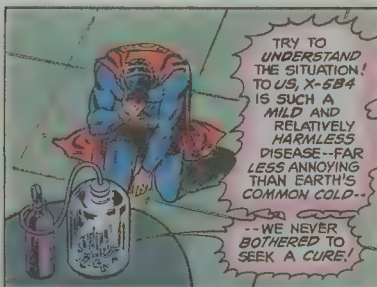
OF COURSE--

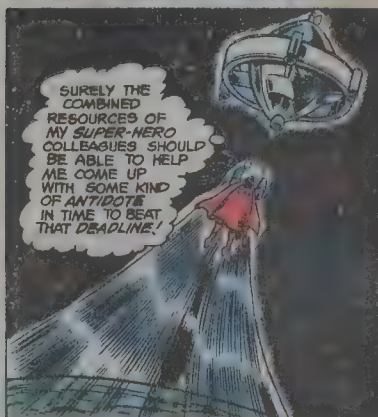
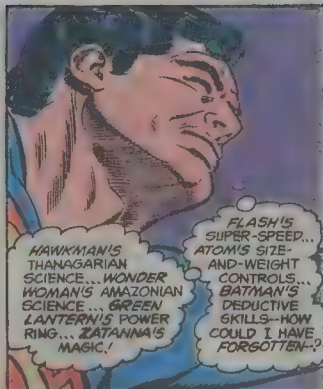
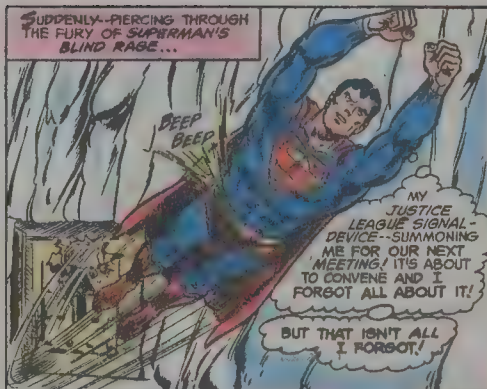






KAL-EL, PLEASE--
LOWER YOUR VOICE!
YOU'RE STIRRING UP
ENOUGH SUPER-
VIBRATIONS TO SET
OFF A GROUND-QUAKE!





BATMAN

**"SOMEONE
IS
KIDNAPPING
THE GREAT CHEF
OF GOTHAM CITY"**

SIX CHEFS
KIDNAPPED! FIVE
RANSOMS PAID!
AND NOT A SIGN
OF THE CHEFS! NOT
EVEN A HAT!!

MAYBE HE'S SUCH A GOURMET
HE WON'T LET THEM GO. WAIT!
COMMISSIONER, THAT GIVES ME
AN IDEA. THIS TIME... I'LL
DELIVER THE RANSOM.

THEY PAID OUR
RANSOMS, MR.
FOXX.

NOW LET
US GO.

NO, NO, MY TALENTED
FRIENDS! AS THE
CITY'S MOST INFAMOUS
GOURMET, THIS OLD
FOXX WOULD MISS
YOUR CULINARY
MASTERPIECES.

AND NOW
I GO TO
PICK UP
ANOTHER
RANSOM.

HOSTESS®
CUP CAKES
INSTEAD OF MONEY!
INGENIOUS!

SUPERB FUDGE ICING! RICH
DEVIL'S FOOD CAKE! CREAMED
FILLING, TOO! A MASTERPIECE.

HE'S SO BUSY ENJOYING
HOSTESS® CUP CAKES,
HE'LL NEVER NOTICE MY
TAGGING ALONG FOR
THE RIDE.

A LITTLE LATER...

A GOOD
NIGHT'S CATCH,
BATMAN. THE
CHEFS, THE
RANSOMS,
AND A FOXX!!!

TAKE HIM, COMMISSIONER,
HE'S YOURS!

BUT THE HOSTESS
CUP CAKES ARE
MINE, ALL MINE!!

**YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT
IN EVERY BITE
OF HOSTESS® CUP CAKES**

OUR
TWO
WILD
WESTERNS...

...ARE
WILDER
THAN
THE
WEST
EVER
WAS!

ALL NEW

ANOTHER GUT-BUSTING
THE WIDOW

JONAH HEX

NOW
40¢

JUNE
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

ALL NEW

WILD WESTERN TALES

SCALPHUNTER

40¢
NO. 56,
JUNE

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SPECIAL: 100 PAGE JONAH HEX
POCKET COMIC COMING SOON!
LOOK FOR IT AT YOUR NEWSSTANDS!

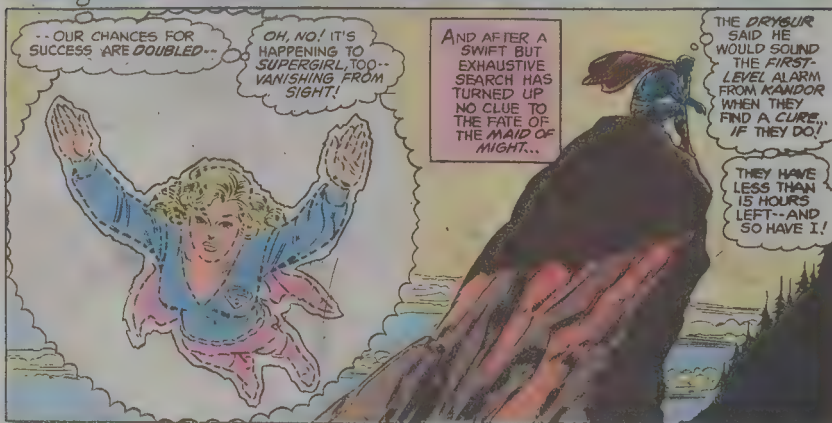


INVISIBLE BEAMS OF
TELESCOPIC VISION
FLASH DOWNWARD--
TO SANTA AUGUSTA,
FLORIDA...

MY COUSIN
KARA--
SUPERGIRL!

MY TIMING COULDN'T
BE BETTER! SHE'S
JUST SWITCHED INTO
HER ACTION GARB
BEHIND THE COVER
OF THOSE BUSHES!

WITH THE
TWO OF US
TEAMING TO
FIGHT
X-5B4--



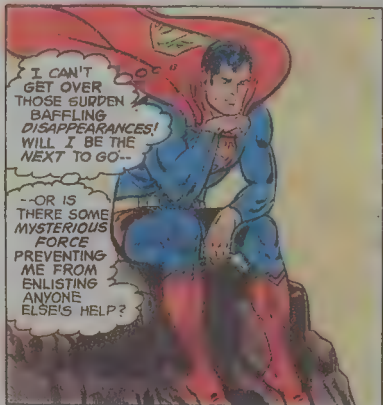
-- OUR CHANCES FOR
SUCCESS ARE DOUBLED--

OH, NO! IT'S
HAPPENING TO
SUPERGIRL, TOO--
VANISHING FROM
SIGHT!

AND AFTER A
SWIFT BUT
EXHAUSTIVE
SEARCH HAS
TURNED UP
NO CLUE TO
THE FATE OF
THE MAID OF
MIGHT...

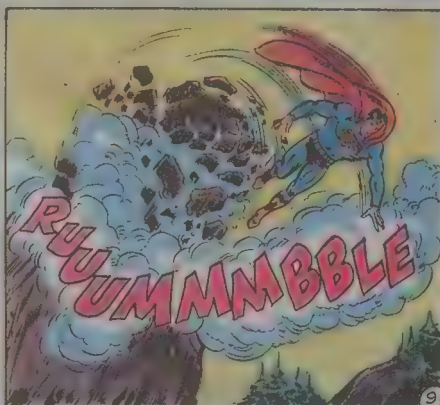
THE DRYSLUR
SAID HE
WOULD SOUND
THE FIRST-
LEVEL ALARM
FROM KANDOR
WHEN THEY
FIND A CURE,
IF THEY DO!

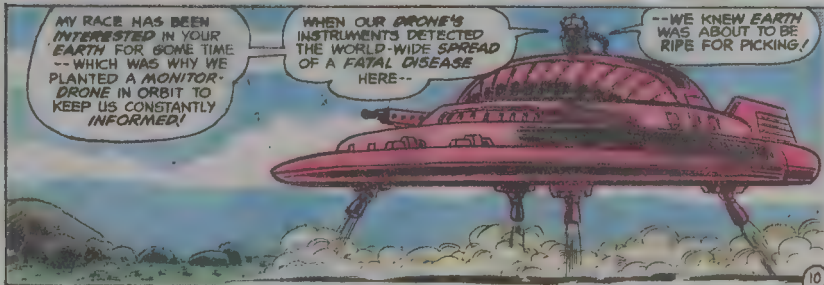
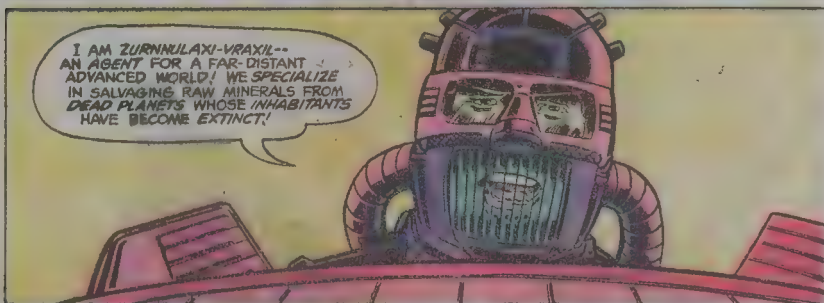
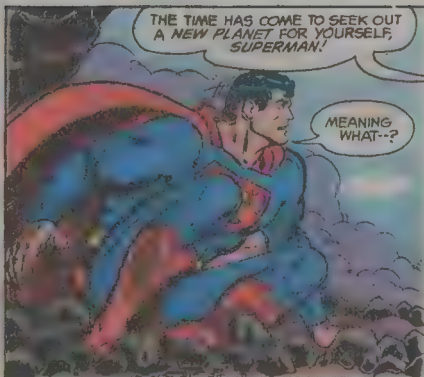
THEY HAVE
LESS THAN
15 HOURS
LEFT--AND
SO HAVE I!



I CAN'T
GET OVER
THOSE SUDDEN
BAFFLING
DISAPPEARANCES!
WILL I BE THE
NEXT TO GO--

--OR IS
THERE SOME
MYSTERIOUS
FORCE
PREVENTING
ME FROM
ENLISTING
ANYONE
ELSE'S HELP?



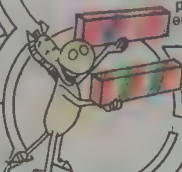


Hey Kids, have as much fun
in Fruit Stripe Land as you do
chewing Fruit Stripe Gum.



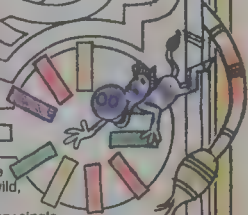
Q: There are two delicious
Fruit Stripe Gums to choose from.
What are they?

A: Fruit Stripe
Regular and
Fruit Stripe Bubble Gum.



Q: Why do we
put all those wild,
colorful, fruity
stripes on every single
stick?

A: To show you that
deeeeee-licious fruity
Fruit Stripe Flavor.



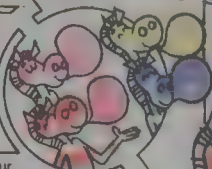
Q: There's a
whole herd of flavors
inside every pack.
How many can
you find?

A: Lemon, Orange,
Cherry, Lime, Grape
and Bubble Gum
flavor, too.



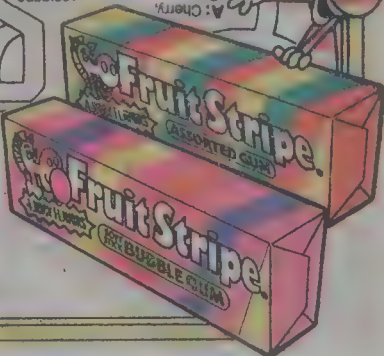
Q: What are the four
different kinds of big,
old-fashioned, juicy,
seeping
bubbles?

A: Cherry,
Grape,
Lemon and
Bubble Gum.



It sure was fun galloping through Fruit Stripe Land with you.

Regular and Bubble Gum
Fruit Stripe Gum
means
Fruit Stripe Fun



HOW WOULD YOU
LIKE TO COME TO
NEW YORK CITY...

...AND BECOME A CHARACTER IN MY
WONDER WOMAN COMIC?

JUST TELL ME WHAT DARING RESCUE
YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ME PERFORM
ON MY CBS TELEVISION SERIES...

...AND WIN
ONE OF
THESE
**FABULOUS
PRIZES!**

GRAND PRIZE: An all-expenses paid "Wonder Woman Weekend" in New York for the winner and a parent, chaperone or guest. Three days and two nights at the world-famous Drake Hotel. Dinner at Sardi's and the Four Seasons. Visits to New York's tourist attractions...and an afternoon at DC Comics, where the winner will become part of an upcoming Wonder Woman story!

RUNNERS-UP will be eligible to receive
25 Wonder Woman wristwatches!
50 Wonder Woman-sleeping bags!
100 Wonder Woman lunch boxes!

**JUST FINISH THIS SENTENCE
IN 50 WORDS OR LESS...**

"The daring rescue I would like to see Wonder Woman perform is..." and include your name, address, telephone number and age, so we can contact you if you're a winner! It's fun...it's easy...and it's the most wonderful prize in comics history! So **ENTER NOW!**



RULES



1. All entries become the property of Warner Bros. Inc. and DC Comics Inc., and will be judged by a panel appointed by them on the basis of originality, ingenuity and entertainment value.
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3. Contestants acknowledge that Warner Bros. Inc. and DC Comics Inc. have the right, but not the obligation, without further consideration, to use all or any part of the entries in connection with the television show, **"THE NEW ADVENTURES OF WONDER WOMAN"** or the **WONDER WOMAN** comic and that winners hereby lend their likeness and name to Warner Bros. Inc. and DC Comics Inc. in connection with publicity relative to this contest.
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5. Only entries received by April 30, 1979, will be considered. Winners will be notified by mail and their names will be announced in the November 1979 issue of **WONDER WOMAN** and other DC Comics.

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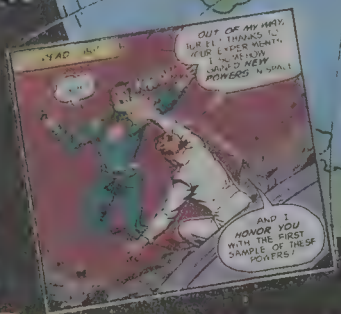
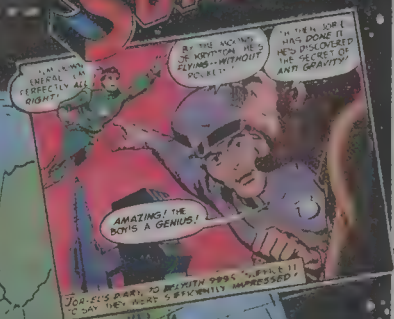
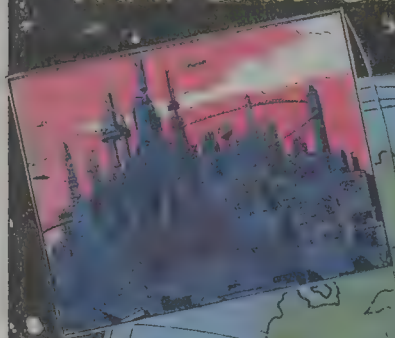
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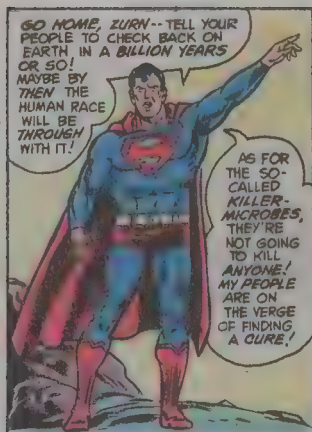
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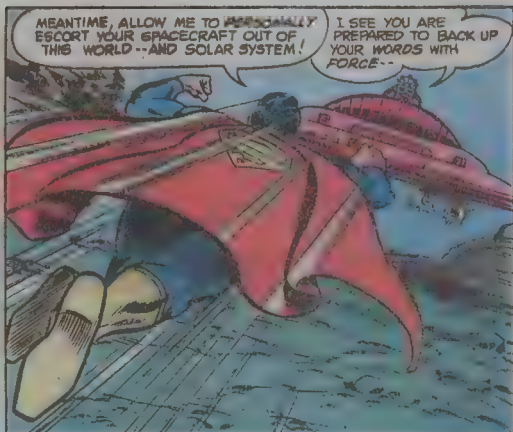
A
TWO-STAR
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EXPLODING
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BE THERE!
THAT'S AN ORDER!



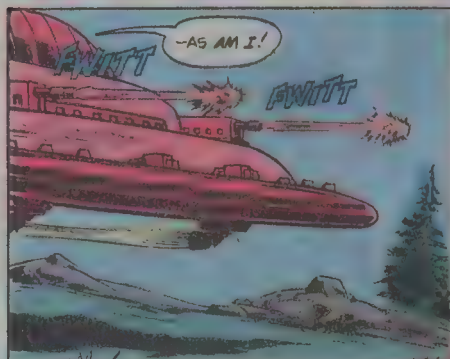
GO HOME, ZURV--TELL YOUR PEOPLE TO CHECK BACK ON EARTH IN A BILLION YEARS OR SO! MAYBE BY THEN THE HUMAN RACE WILL BE THROUGH WITH IT!

AS FOR THE SO-CALLED KILLER-MICROBES, THEY'RE NOT GOING TO KILL ANYONE! MY PEOPLE ARE ON THE VERGE OF FINDING A CURE!

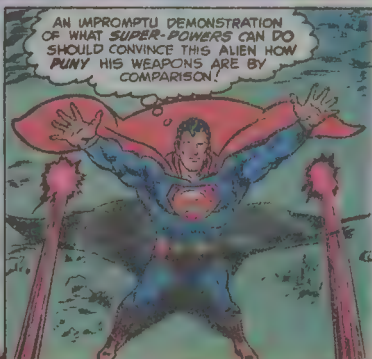


MEANTIME, ALLOW ME TO PERSONALLY ESCORT YOUR SPACECRAFT OUT OF THIS WORLD--AND SOLAR SYSTEM!

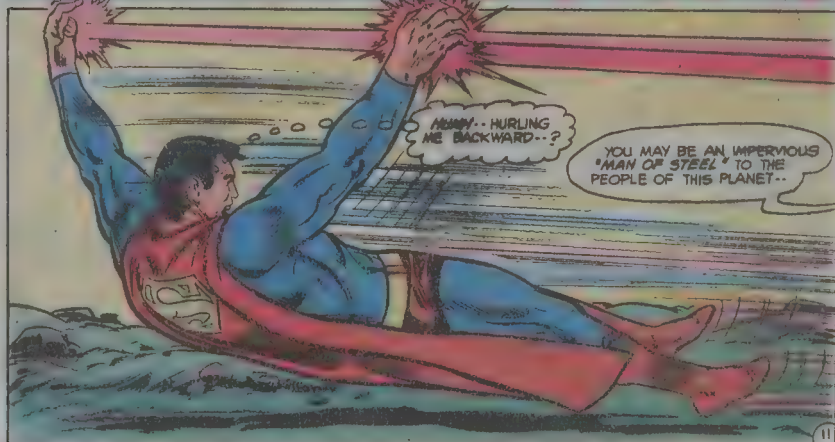
I SEE YOU ARE PREPARED TO BACK UP YOUR WORDS WITH FORCE--



--AS AM I!

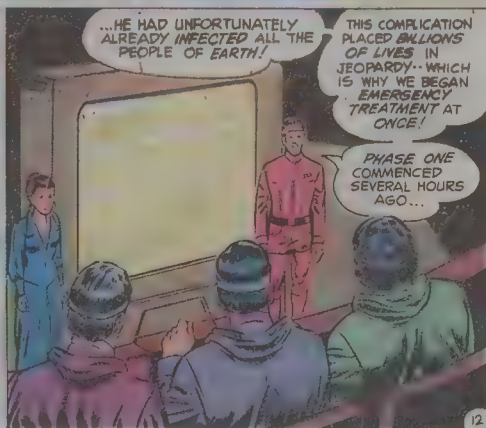
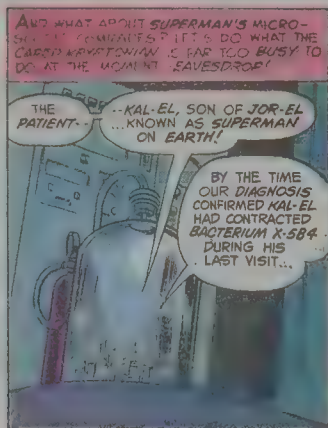
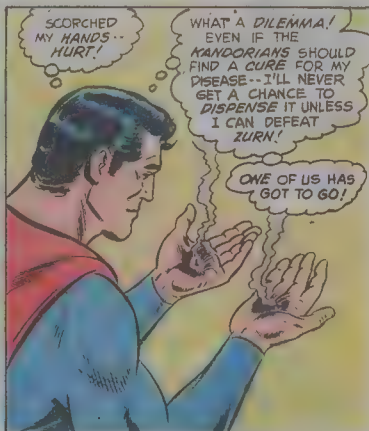
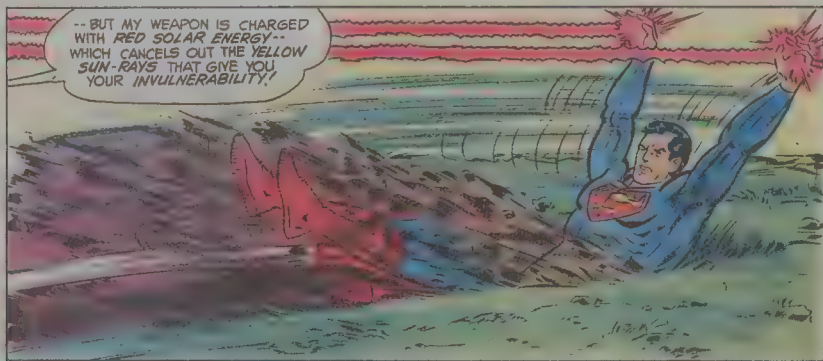


AN IMPROMPTU DEMONSTRATION OF WHAT SUPER-POWERS CAN DO SHOULD CONVINCE THIS ALIEN HOW PUNY HIS WEAPONS ARE BY COMPARISON!



HEEY--HURLING ME BACKWARD--?

YOU MAY BE AN IMPERVOUS 'MAN OF STEEL' TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET--



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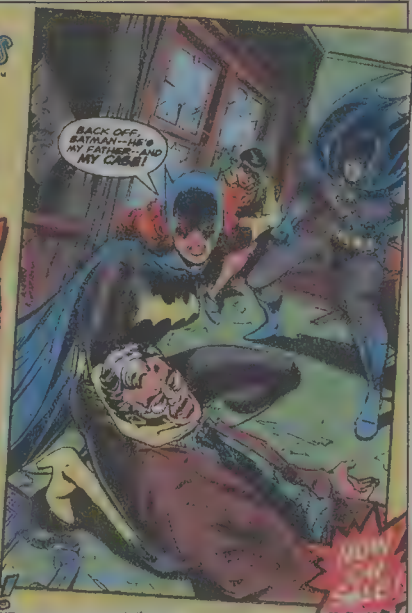
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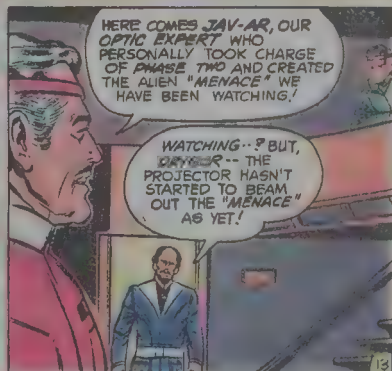
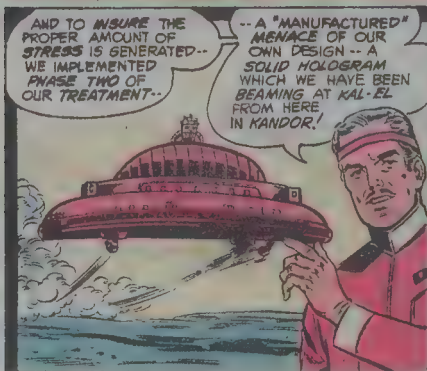
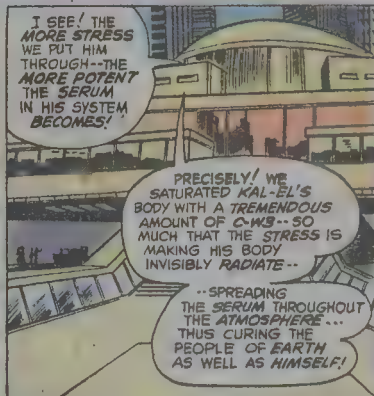
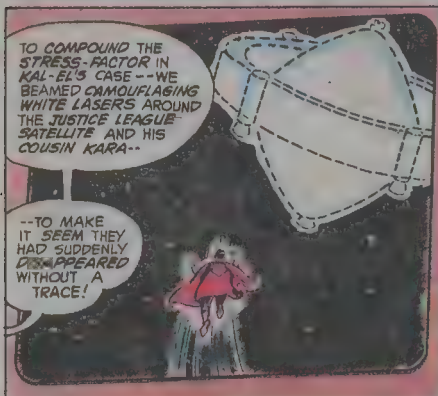
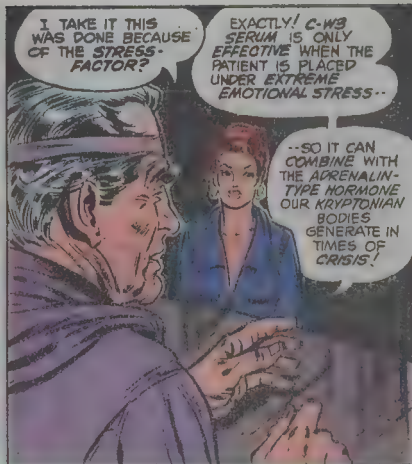
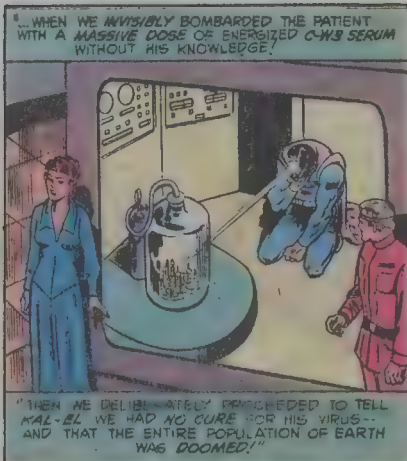
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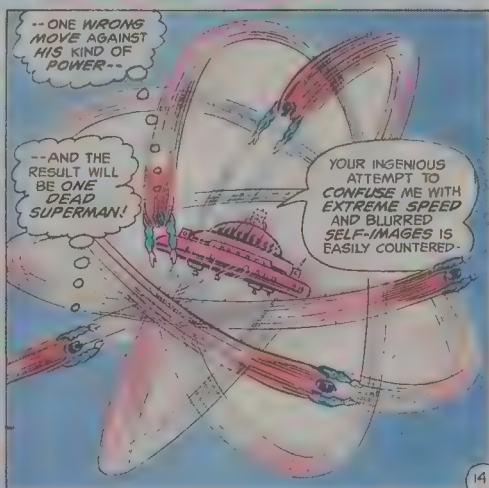
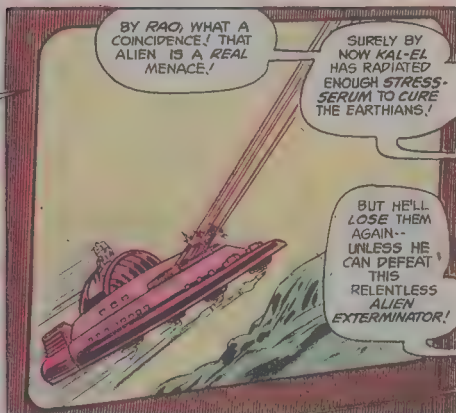
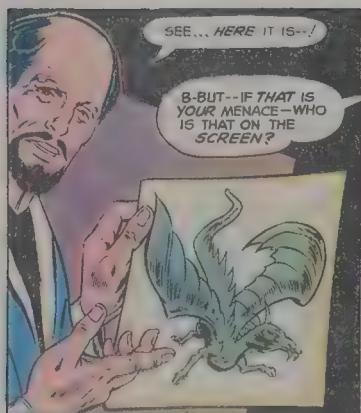
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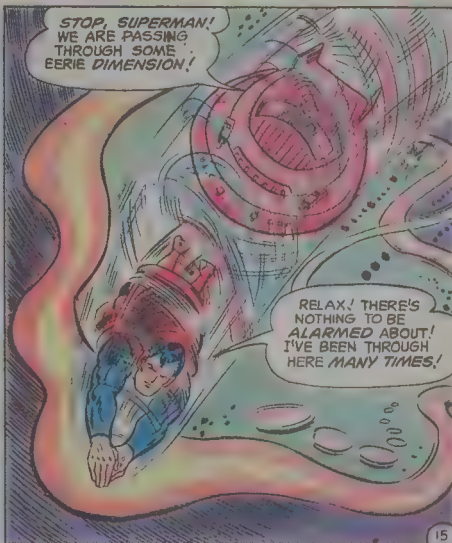
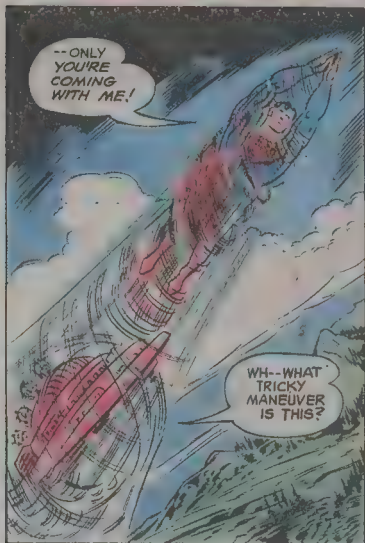
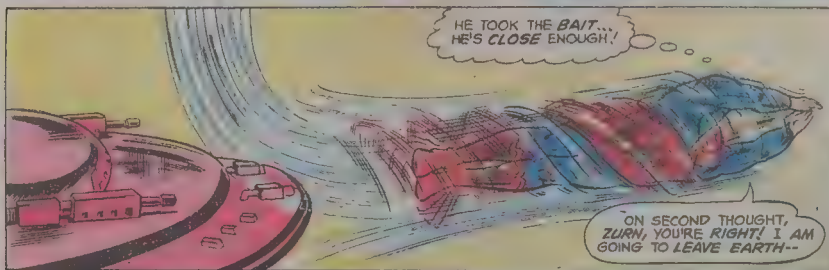
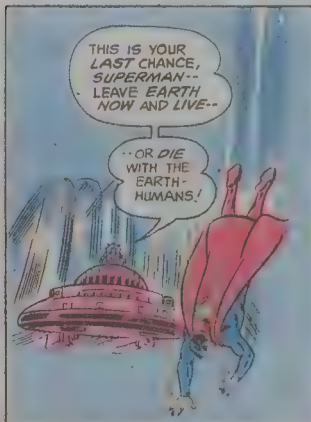
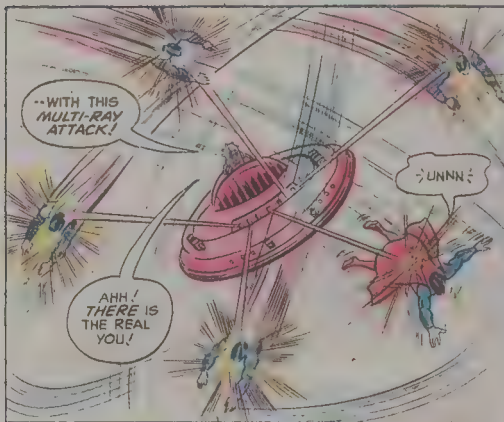
**CAN BATGIRL WIN
"THE RACE AGAINST
MURDER"
AND SAVE HER
FATHER'S LIFE?**

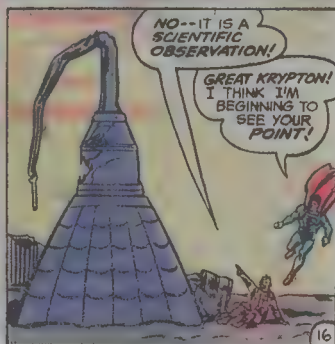
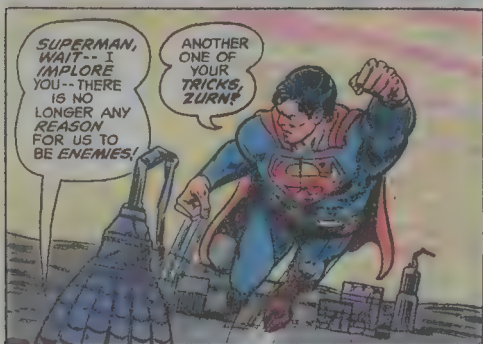
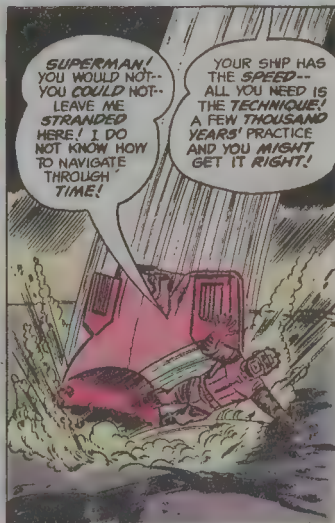
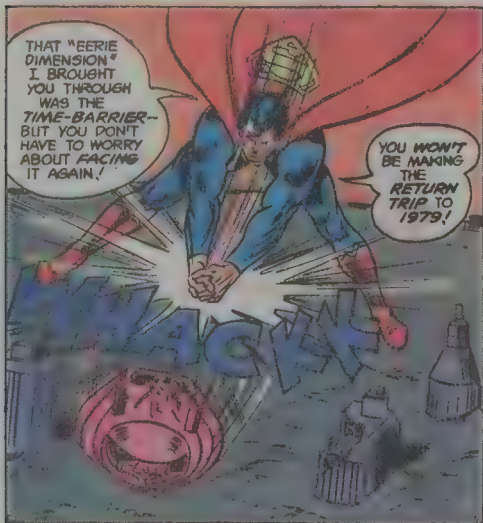
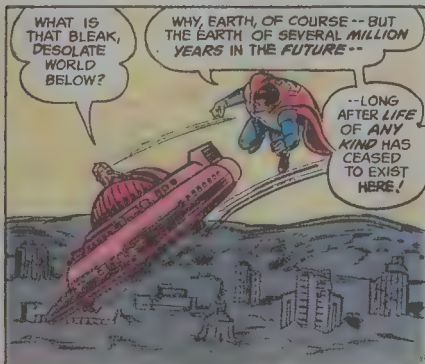
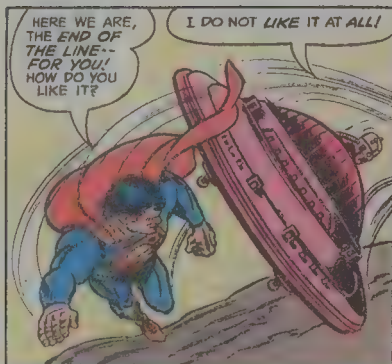
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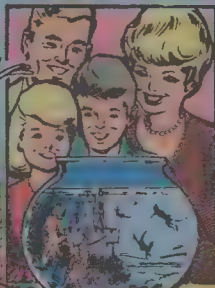
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KRYPTONITE ROCKS!!



**IT'S TERRIFIC
IT'S FANTASTIC
IT'S KRYPTONASTIC**

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Attention, Friends of Superman!

Do you really want to be a friend of Superman? Well, now you can be, by owning a Kryptonite™ Rock! Kryptonite™ Rocks come from the planet Krypton. Long ago, the planet exploded, sending huge pieces of rocks into space.

For years the Kryptonite™ has fallen to earth and been captured by the enemy (we know who they are) who use it to try and kill one of our land's greatest heroes—SUPERMAN. You see, Kryptonite™ is the only substance against which Superman has no defense.

A short while ago we (the good guys) spotted a very large piece of Kryptonite™ Rock about to smash into the earth. We immediately sent out a search party to find and bring back the Kryptonite™ Rock before it fell into the wrong hands.

We found the Kryptonite™ Rock broken down into a million pieces and are making it available to all of Superman's friends for safe-keeping.

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The above story is only fictional and is in no way to be confused with actual fact.

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MOMENTS LATER, AFTER THE ALIEN HAS CONSULTED SOME OF THE ADVANCED INSTRUMENTS ABOARD HIS CRAFT...

AS I THOUGHT! THAT RAVAGED SKYSCRAPER BEHIND US IS ONLY A HINT OF WHAT LIES BELOW!

--OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION!

MY XOTA-PROBE IS SHOWING MANY LAYERS OF STRATA ...AND MANY REMNANTS OF A CONTINUOUS STREAM OF CIVILIZATION!

YES, SUPERMAN! THIS PROVES WITHOUT A DOUBT THAT THE HUMAN RACE SURVIVED FOR EONS AFTER 1979!

THEN THE KANDORIANS DID MANAGE TO FIND A CURE FOR MY VIRUS-- BEFORE THE DEADLINE!

WHAT A RELIEF!

MY PEOPLE ARE SCAVENGERS... NOT MASS MURDERERS! IT IS NOT OUR WAY TO TAKE FROM OTHERS!

IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE MY WORDS... I WILL UNDERSTAND AND BID YOU FAREWELL...

NOT JUST YET, ZURNULAXI-VRAXIL -- WE HAVE A RETURN TRIP TO MAKE THROUGH THE TIME-BARRIER!

1979 ONCE AGAIN--AFTER THE GRATEFUL ALIEN HAS THANKED SUPERMAN AND LEFT FOR HIS OWN PLANET...

... AND AFTER A GRATEFUL SUPERMAN HAS THANKED HIS FELLOW KRYPTONIANS IN THE BOTTLE-CITY OF KANDOR FOR THEIR AID IN SPEEDING HIS RECOVERY...

A-CHOO!

LANA, SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE COMING DOWN WITH A COLD! YOU BETTER CALL YOUR DOCTOR--

GOOD GRIEF, LUV! IT'S NO BIG THING-- JUST A LITTLE COLD!

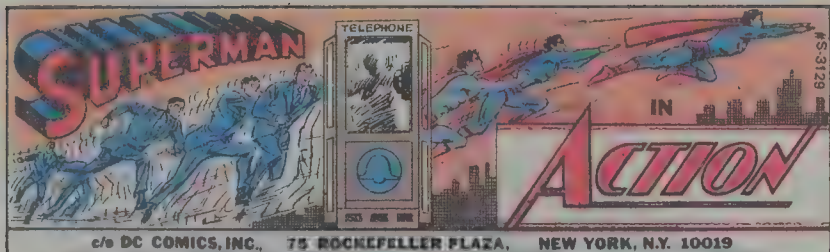
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, LANA...

"YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL! DON'T LET IT SPREAD--!"

17

NEXT ISSUE: HOW CAN THREE BOYS ORDER THE MAN OF STEEL TO DO THEIR BIDDING? READ "SUPERMAN'S COMMAND PERFORMANCE!"

ON SALE APRIL 26TH!



DEAR EDITOR:

Personally, I find it extremely difficult to lump together the three issues of *ACTION* (#489-491) as a so-called "three-parter." While each issue obviously relied on the others for continuity, each was original enough to stand on its own. This alone would be enough for anyone to dole out praise to Cary Bates on his effort in #481's "A Matter of Light and Death." Add to this a tale full of awesome spectacle and the excitement of an outer-space duel leading up to a fitting climax—the end of *Superman's* crisis and his final penetration of Brainiac's force-field. Yet, despite all this excitement, I was far more impressed with the touching subplot concerning *Superman's* encounter with the blind mountain man.

The interaction between super-powered alien and rustic-ex-scientist was fascinating not only because of its sensitivity, but because it provided a subtle evaluation of *Superman's* twofold nature. Here we saw a man capable of taking a super-speed excursion into the blaze of a super-nova without blinking an eye, yet humane enough to be touched by the simplicity of a blind man, blithely cure him, and fly off to avoid gratitude. This scene convinced me of the capabilities of Cary as a writer not only of action tales, but of some sensitive ones as well.

Finally, the Swan/Chiaromonte art team continues to impress me not only because of Curt's consistent work, but because Frank never stops improving. At this rate, issue #500 should be nothing short of magnificent.

Tony Edwards
454 N. Formosa Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

We must agree—not only because of the art, but because of the very special Martin Pasko script! More on this next time.
—ENB

Dear Editor:

ACTION #489-491 upset me for a very simple reason. You say it took nearly 30 years for the light created by Krypton's explosion to reach Earth, et, of course, light-speed. You carefully note that Kal-El's ship created a space-warp...but...is every piece of Kryptonite ever to enter our solar system equipped with that same space-warp capability? How did all that Kryptonite reach Earth so quickly? And why didn't light from the explosion also pass through that warp?

Still more questions: Why didn't Brainiac quickly fly to a red sun system while *Superman* was stuck to his ship, or fly to a place where his Kryptonian magnet would attract Kryptonite? How did *Superman* escape the magnet the first time? Did Brainiac release him so he would cause destruction on Earth? If so, when will these super-villains, especially those with 12th-level computer brains, learn to stop toying with the Man of Steel?

David Hayes
P.O. Box 277
Dalton, OH 44818

*The warp created by the spaceship remained open. It's possible some light from the blast did pass through the warp at that time, but Earth was not in a position to see it properly—Kal-El didn't land until two days later. Yes, Brainiac was determined to have *Superman* wreak havoc on his adopted world, which explains the release and the failure to use the K-magnet to kill him when he had the chance. Sometimes super-villains tend to dream up plots so complicated they give the hero a chance to strike back. It just doesn't occur to them to do the obvious!—ENB*

Dear Supermaniacs:

Quite nice—not outstandingly excellent, but *ACTION* #491 was above Cary's usual standards for *Superman* scripts. Brainiac is *Superman's* second most satisfying foe, and his plot here revealed more about Kryptonian physiology and was properly diabolical. The plot made a lot more sense than many of Cary's scripts, and that touch about *Superman* curing the blind man was very much in the old-fashioned *Superman* super-idealistic tradition...especially with the repetition of an old but still interesting stunt: the transformation of coal into diamonds. I was just a trifle jarred by *Superman's* penetration of Brainiac's force-field—that is one of the best touches of Brainiac, that he's the one foe *Superman* can't reach—but since this is a one-time occurrence, with *Superman* under the influence of super-nova radiation, we can accept it. Just don't let it become a habit.

Not as interesting or as fully characterized as Pasko's or Wein's *Superman*, but a very competent story. And Cary does remember that *Superman* is an alien, with different reactions to different stimuli from Earth people, something many writers forget.

Al Schroeder III
2207 Old Hickory Blvd
Nashville, TN 37215

Cary was moderately happy with your remarks—but not as much as Pasko and Wein were to your reference to them!—ENB

Gentlemen:

ACTION #491 was/is tremendous. From cover to cover, this is the best comic I've seen or read in over twenty years. *Superman* is finally a true super-man, and no attempts will be made by me to criticize this issue. Well, maybe one. What took you so long?

James R. Gams
10 Ben Lippin Rd.
Asheville, NC 28806

Well, gosh—we obviously had to wait for the light from Krypton's explosion to reach Earth, didn't we? That's what took us so long!—E. Nelson Bridwell





HAWKMAN MENACES SUPERMAN!

MAN OF STEEL FACES DEATH FROM FELLOW JLA MEMBER!

(PARIS)—Hawkman has turned into a menace! What awful mysterious power has overcome the winged crimefighter from Thanagar and turned him into a foe strong enough and deadly enough to destroy Superman?

The Man of Steel must discover the controlling force behind Hawkman's destructive power—or face total annihilation! Can you guess the reason behind Hawkman's actions before Superman does?

Find out the answers in **DC COMICS PRESENTS #11** in an incredible story by Cary Bates and Joe Staton when it goes on sale the week of April 9th.



P-312

ASK THE ANSWER MAN

Q: Which parallel Earth was shown in **ACTION COMICS #399**? Was it perhaps Earth-47—Tim Crane. **A:** No, Earth-8, where all the stories that don't fit into our regular continuity take place!

Q: Who was the first super-hero **DC** ever created?—Leslie Campbell. **A:** The *Crimson Avenger* was a costumed do-gooder in the early days of **DETECTIVE COMICS**, but **Superman** has to get the credit as the first recognized super-hero.

Q: How about the origin of *Robin*?—Amy Dunbar. **A:** The Teen Wonder's roots are recapped in **DETECTIVE COMICS #484**.

Q: Can you name the various members of the *Injustice Society* of Earth-2?—Rudy Garcia. **A:** That group was formed by the Wizard back in **ALL-STAR #37** and included the Gambler, Brain Wave, Vandal Savage, Degeton and the Thinker. Later members included Solomon Grundy, the Fiddler, the Icicle, the Huntress, the Sportsmaster, and the Harlequin.

Q: Can I get a comic that went on sale in 1977 from you?—Ben King. **A:** As we've said many times before, we do not have any back issues. You'll have to fill your want list through a back issue dealer.

Q: What is *Robin* majoring in at Hudson University?—Stephen Marco. **A:** Business Administration.

Q: Is *Brainiac 5* ever going to find a way to bring back clones of *Ferro Lad* and *Invisible Kid* that won't explode like the ones in **SUPERBOY/LEGION #208**?—Joey Shaw. **A:** Anything is possible in comics, but considering *Brainy's* condition in current issues, it's not likely.

NOTE: Speaking of **SUPERBOY/LEGION**, a number of readers have pointed out a mistake in a recent column. Ye Answer Man had stated that nothing had happened to *Chemical King* and *Matter-Eater Lad*. *Cherry* was killed some issues ago, but *M-E Lad* did indeed turn up in recent issues.

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF APRIL 9th

BATMAN #313—Double danger for *Batman* and Gotham as *Two-Face* returns in "Two For the Money" by Len Wein, Irv Novick and Frank McLaughlin. **GHOSTS #78**—Meet "The World's Most Famous Phantom" with George Kashdan and Bill Draut; sit in with "The Spectral Squatter" by Kashdan and Romeo Tangleh; and take up a "Vigil of the Spirits" with Kashdan and E.R. Cruz. **JUSTICE LEAGUE #168**—The *Super-Villains* are really the *JLAers* and vice versa, but who will figure out "The Last Great Switcheroo" in this Gerry Conway/Dick Dilllin / Frank McLaughlin thriller?

WEIRD WAR TALES #77—A 23-page combat chiller by Bill Kelley and Ruben Yandoc: "Triad" is about three brothers with a telepathic link!

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:

ACTION COMICS #498 / BRAVE & BOLD #181 (*Batman* and *The Flash*) / **GREEN LANTERN #117 / HOUSE OF MYSTERY #268 / SGT ROCKET #329 / SUPERBOY & THE LEGION #252 / SUPER FRIENDS #21 / SUPERMAN #338 / UNKNOWN SOLDIER #228 / WARLORD #22 / WEIRD WESTERN TALES #56 / WONDER WOMAN #258**

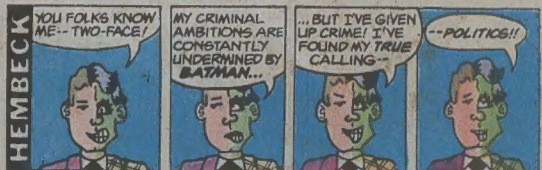
UNEXPECTED DELVES INTO OCCULT SECRETS

(Greenwich Village, New York)—What is the dread secret of the hottest new nightspot in town? Why do innocent young girls seem so attracted to Damon, the disco's owner? And why do they all disappear? Come with *Madame Xenadu* through the *Doorway to Nightmares* and discover more than you want to know about "The Wheel of Fortune" in the latest issue of **THE UNEXPECTED**.

Also in this issue, "A Killer Cold and Clemmy" by George Kashdan and E.R. Cruz, "The Mind That Could Murder" by Carl Wessler and Fred Carillo, "The Hideous Troggs" by Wessler and the Redondo Studios, "Fright At The End of the Tunnel" by David Allikas and Danny Tolentino, and "Final Entry" by Wesley Marsh and Nestor Redondo.

And from *The House of Secrets*, "The Face of Abel," written by Michael C. Carmichael, drawn by and guest-starring Ric Estrada, "Female of the Species" by Jack Oleck and Ruben Yandoc, "Freak of Nature" by Oleck and Jerry Grandinetti, and an interior cover by Mike Kaluta.

Be sure to get your copy of **THE UNEXPECTED #192** when it goes on sale the week of April 9th.

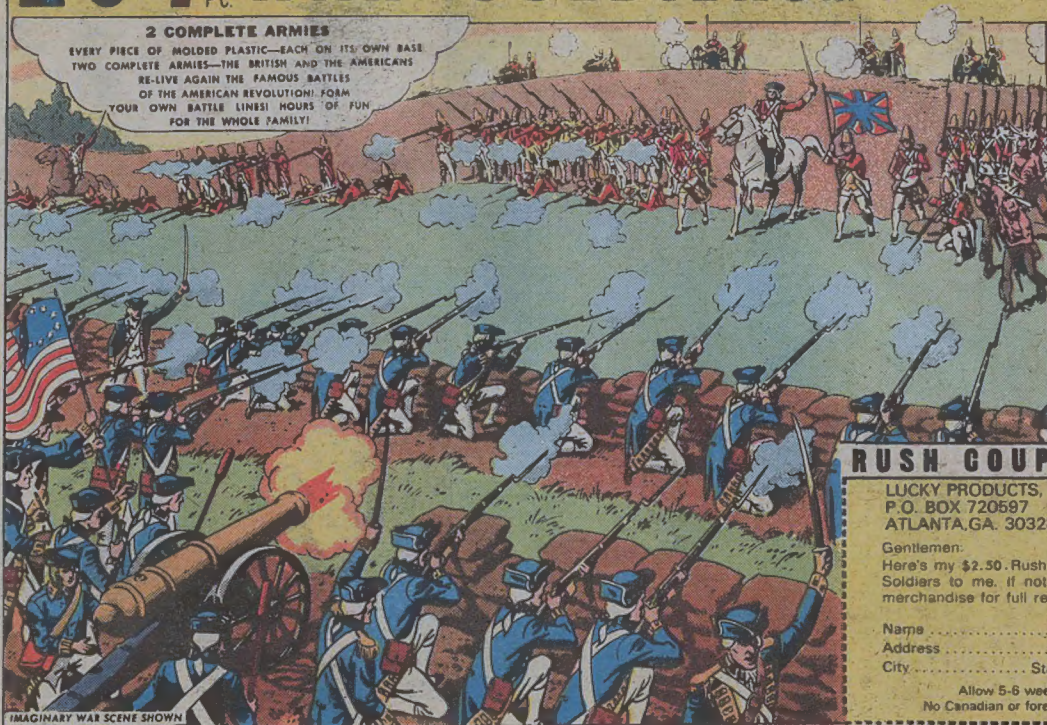


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PLAYING WITH A
SPALDING
RUBBER BALL
LIKE I GREW UP
WITH.

YEAH,
THOSE
VINYL
BALLS ARE
JUST TOO
SLICK!

AW, WHAT
DIFFERENCE
CAN THE
BALL MAKE?

MY MAN, FOR REAL
BALL HANDLING,
YOU NEED THAT

...SPALDING
TOUCH!!!

SLAM DUNK!

NOW IT'S MY TURN,
JULIUS!

A
30-
FOOTER!!

WHAT
A MAGIC
TOUCH!

YOU
DON'T NEED
MAGIC -JUST
PRACTICE WITH
A SPALDING
AUTOGRAPH
BALL. IT'S GOT A
RUBBER COVER
SO YOU CAN
REALLY GET
A GRIP ON
IT.

WHAT
MOVES!

HE
PLAYS
UP IN THE
LIGHTS!

I
BELIEVE
IT! I
BELIEVE
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